

**JBC STAFF FISCAL ANALYSIS  
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

CONCERNING THE OFFICE OF THE RESPONDENT PARENTS' COUNSEL IN CASES OF ALLEGED CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT.

Prime Sponsors: Sens. Lambert and Newell  
Reps. May and Gardner

JBC Analyst: Carolyn Kampman  
Phone: 303-866-2061  
Date Prepared: April 24, 2014

**Fiscal Impact of Bill as Amended to Date**

The most recent Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note (attached) reflects the fiscal impact of the bill as of 04/23/14.

	<b>No Change:</b> Attached LCS Fiscal Note accurately reflects the fiscal impact of the bill
	<b>Update:</b> Fiscal impact has changed due to <i>new information or technical issues</i>
<b>XXX</b>	<b>Update:</b> Fiscal impact has changed due to <i>amendment adopted</i> after LCS Fiscal Note was prepared
	<b>Non-Concurrence:</b> JBC Staff and Legislative Council Staff disagree about the fiscal impact of the bill

The Senate Judiciary Committee Report (04/23/14) delays by six months the transfer of the responsibility for state paid respondent parent counsel to the newly created Office of Respondent Parents' Counsel (ORPC). The attached Fiscal Note assumes that the ORPC will need to be established four months prior to the transfer. Thus, with the transfer delayed to January 1, 2016, the ORPC would need to be established by September 1, 2015. As indicated in the attached Legislative Council Staff Memorandum dated April, 23, 2014<sup>1</sup>, this delay eliminates the fiscal impact for FY 2014-15, and shifts the ORPC start-up and operational costs to FY 2015-16 (currently estimated to require up to \$500,000 General Fund and 2.0 FTE).

**Amendments in This Packet for Consideration by Appropriations Committee**

Amendment	Description
None.	

**Current Appropriations Clause in Bill**

The bill neither requires nor contains an appropriation clause for FY 2014-15.

---

<sup>1</sup> Please note that the memorandum was prepared for amendment L.001, and the Judiciary Committee adopted L.002. However, amendment L.002 includes the same changes as in L.001, as well as conforming amendments to three other dates in the bill.

**Points to Consider**

---

*Future Fiscal Impact*

Although this bill would not require a General Fund appropriation for FY 2014-15, it is projected to require General Fund appropriations of up to \$500,000 and 2.0 FTE in FY 2015-16 to establish the ORPC. The bill requires the Judicial Department to include as part of its FY 2015-16 budget request the funding and staff necessary to establish the ORPC based on the recommendations of the Respondent Parents' Counsel Work Group. In addition, please note that the legislative declaration in the bill states that "there is a need to establish additional and equitable funding to compensate respondent parents' counsel", and that there should be an independent office to oversee the respondent parents' counsel to improve the quality of such representation. Thus, it is likely that the Department will request additional funding in future fiscal years if it is determined to be necessary to achieve the goals set forth in the bill.